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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/08

SPONSOR Miera, R. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 556

SHORT TITLE Southeast Albuquerque Youth Drug Treatment SB _____

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 556, making an Appropriation for a Drug Treatment Program for Troubled Youth in Southeast Albuquerque, appropriates \$40.0 thousand from the general fund for drug treatment programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD notes that nationally, drug offense cases accounted for 12% of the delinquency caseload in 2004, compared with 7% in 1985. Between 1991 and 2004, the number of cases involving drug offenses that juvenile courts handled more than doubled. In 2004, juvenile courts formally processed 58% of drug offense cases. Between 1985 and 2004, the number of drug offense cases handled with the filing of a petition for adjudication increased 251% (from 31,800 to 111,500). In 2004, 1.3% of formally handled drug cases were judicially waived to criminal court,

accounting for 15% of all delinquency cases waived in that year. The majority (68%) of formally processed drug cases in 2004 resulted in the juvenile being adjudicated delinquent.

In New Mexico, data from the Juvenile Justice Services Data Unit, CYFD show in 2008 (year to date), in Bernalillo County 760 (17%) of 4594 juvenile offenses referred to juvenile justice services were drug or alcohol related. This compared with 1772 (15%) of 11,503 juvenile offenses referred to juvenile justice services were drug or alcohol related in FY07. Of youth on probation, data shows in the first six months of fiscal year 2008, there were 1,591 probation violation charges statewide. 301 (19%) of the probation violation charges were for alcohol or drugs. In Bernalillo County during the same time period there were 573 probation violation charges. 84 (15%) of probation violations were for alcohol or drugs.

FY08 Probation Violation Referral Charges		
	Probation Violation	Probation Violation Alcohol/Drugs
Statewide	1,591	301
Bernalillo County	573	84

Note that the counts above are not of referrals, but rather of charges associated with referrals.

The 2003 – 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) indicated that 6.1% of 12-17 year olds in Bernalillo County were in need of treatment for illicit drugs but not receiving any compared to 5.9% of 12-17 year olds statewide.

The 2005 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), Bernalillo County Report, NMDOH, NMPED, and UNM Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, is the primary surveillance tool in New Mexico for high school student risk behaviors and protective factors and is administered statewide every two years to all the school districts in the state who volunteer to participate. Students in grades 9-12 self-report on a variety of measures. The response rate in Bernalillo County for 2005 was 65%. According to comparisons between 2001 to 2005, current marijuana use increased from 27% to 31%, first marijuana use at less than 13 years old increased from 17% to 22%, past 30 day cocaine use increased from 3% to 10%, heroin and meth had no data from 2001, but had 4% and 6% respectively in 2005. Finally, inhalants increased from 2% to 8%. Another variable was injection of illegal drugs in lifetime, and that increased from 4% to 6%.

According to Nina Shah, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology and Response Division, NMDOH, the Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) data show from 2002 - 2006 there were 15 unintentional drug overdose deaths between age 12 – 17 statewide, and 8 of those 15 (53%) were in Bernalillo County. The rest represented 1 death each in 7 counties. The drugs represented in the Bernalillo County deaths were combinations of cocaine and meth, cocaine and barbiturates, and various prescription drugs.

ALTERNATIVES

CYFD suggests that consistent with state agency funding for similar drug treatment programs, the appropriation for HB556 could be directed to the Behavioral Health Collaborative rather than DFA.